

REMARKS

With the present Amendment After Allowance, applicants delete the priority claim to U. S. Patent Application No. 09/904,697 filed July 13, 2001. The deletion of a priority claim after a Notice of Allowance is believed to be appropriate at least under *MPEP* §201.11.

Claims 48-50 have been amended to address minor informalities.

No amendment presented herein contains new matter.

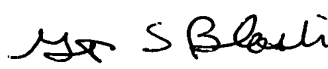
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants believe all of the claims of the present application to be in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration and passage to allowance of the application.

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call applicants' representative at the phone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-3577.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
George S. Blasiak
Registration No.: 37,283
Marjama Muldoon Blasiak & Sullivan LLP
250 South Clinton Street
Suite 300
Syracuse, New York 13202
(315) 425-9000
Customer No. 20874

GSB/bs